

Texas Crop Weather

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For the week of January 12 - 18, 2004

TX-CW0304

1-800-626-3142

www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - January 18, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1998-2003
	<i>Percent</i>		
Cotton			
Harvested	98	98	99
Wheat			
Emerged	97	99	97
Other Field Crops			
Harvested			
Pecans	97	94	93

Crop Condition Table - January 18, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
	<i>Percent</i>				
Wheat	2	14	26	32	26
Range & Pasture . .	2	15	32	33	18

Agricultural Summary: Relief in the form of rain and even a little snow came for many producers across the State. The Southern Jet Stream carried Pacific moisture across Mexico into the State where it merged with Gulf moisture to bring much needed precipitation to many areas. The Panhandle received ½ to 1 inch of rain and up to 3 inches of snow in some locations. However, most of the precipitation occurred east of Amarillo. The western half of the Panhandle only received trace amounts. Severely drought stricken areas of the South Plains got up to 2 inches of rainfall and about 1 inch of snow. Other regions recording substantial precipitation included North Central and Central Texas, the Upper Coast, eastern parts of the Edwards Plateau, and some locations of the Trans Pecos. All of these regions reported rainfall amounts ranging from 1½ to 3 inches. The heaviest accumulations occurred in a line from Austin to Dallas where rain gauge readings were over 4 inches. Rainfall in other parts of the state ranged from a trace to ½ inch. Temperatures throughout the week were mostly seasonable although after the rain ended, thermometer readings in southern areas approached 80 degrees. By the end of the week, a cold front dropped temperatures once again. Badly needed soil moisture finally increased in most areas. The slow, steady rainfall was just what many producers were hoping for. A harder rain will be needed for runoff to fill stock tanks in many areas. Many fields will be prepared for spring planting now that rain has fallen. Greenbugs and other pests remained a problem in some areas and producers were waiting to see what effect the changing weather will have on them. Supplemental feeding of livestock remained extremely active across most regions. Some cattle sickness was reported due to the changing conditions.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Increased moisture was definitely welcomed by wheat and oat producers. However, it may have come too late for some acreage. Fields that had not yet emerged in some locations might be too far gone for rain to help. In healthier wheat stands, moisture will spur growth. Most stockers have been pulled off fields for lack of adequate forage. Greenbugs, aphids, and armyworms remained active and required treatment in some areas. Statewide wheat condition was rated at 40 percent of normal, compared with 81 percent last year.

Corn: Field work in northern areas should increase within the next few weeks because of the rain. In central and southern areas, preparations will resume as soon as fields dry out. Plowing and fertilizing was wrapping up in some locations of the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley as planting drew closer.

Cotton: Weather conditions halted the harvest of the few cotton fields that remained. Most gins were shut down for the season. Fields in the Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Valley were being prepared for the upcoming season.

Sorghum: Fields were being worked where conditions allowed. Planting dates were quickly approaching in Deep South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, onions were progressing well and the crop looked very favorable compared to previous years. Harvest of citrus and sugarcane was delayed slightly due to rain.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, harvest of spinach and cabbage continued where conditions allowed. Green bean planting had begun. Onions, carrots, and cabbage progressed nicely.

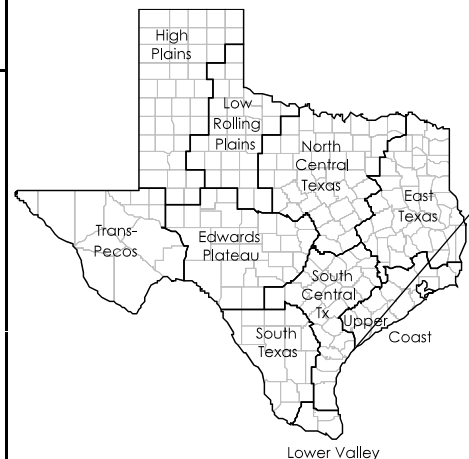
Pecans: Harvest was complete. Producers were enjoying favorable prices.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pastures should respond well to the rainfall, but much more rain will be needed to compensate for the moisture deficiency. The next few weeks will show what effect increased moisture had on native ranges and pastures. Cattle continued to be pulled off pastures due to lack of forage. Body conditions were rated as fair for this time of year. Hay sales have been brisk. In the worst drought stricken areas, cattlemen were thinning herds. Supplemental feeding was extremely active across the State. Producers report prices at cattle auctions have been decent given the BSE issue. Cattle sickness occurred due to changing weather conditions.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Jan 12 - 18) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Jan 1 - 18) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - 18) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Oct - Dec) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.92	0.92	0.92	18.87	34
Low Rolling Plains	1.37	1.37	1.37	23.78	37
North Central Texas	1.48	1.51	1.51	34.00	48
East Texas	1.37	1.66	1.66	45.69	70
Trans Pecos	0.86	0.86	0.86	12.96	102
Edwards Plateau	1.21	1.21	1.21	24.01	66
South Central Texas	1.14	1.37	1.37	34.48	86
Upper Coast	1.76	3.03	3.03	47.63	101
South Texas	0.36	0.45	0.45	23.49	124
Lower Valley	0.42	0.51	0.51	25.34	131



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - January 18, 2004 *

Condition	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
	Percent of Acreage														
Very Short	65	54	73	44	72	25	23	0	42	21	7	0	0	8	0
Short	18	21	15	36	20	24	27	6	8	56	58	17	0	36	30
Adequate	17	23	12	19	8	38	50	46	50	22	35	78	3	55	70
Surplus	0	2	0	1	0	13	0	48	0	1	0	5	97	1	0

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.

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